transactions, assisting business delegations going from India to foreign countries and vice-versa.

Our Missions are also actively involved in the organisation of exhibitions, fairs, seminars, buyer-seller meets and Joint Commission meetings.

Suitable strategies for improving India's trade relations abroad are devised through periodic reviews of commercial activities in the Missions abroad.

The Government has also formulated and is implementing a comprehensive investment promotion strategy aimed at promoting foreign investment into India. The Government is also working closely with apex industry/organisations in their efforts to attract foreign investment. Several promotional events have been organised both abroad as well as in India to project the country as an alternative investment destination to international corporate and business audiences.

Through the operation of the Indian Technical and Economic (ITEC) Programme and the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) this Ministry promotes technical assistance by India to countries in the developing world. Efforts are also afoot to streamline the ITEC programme to bring out a greater harmonisation between the activities under the programme and the pursuit of our economic and commercial objectives abroad.

भारत की अणु नीति

2862. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) अणु बम बनाने के संबंध में सरकार का नवीनतम दृष्टिकोण क्या है;

(ख) क्या सरकार चीन और पाकिस्तान में आणविक हथियारों के निर्माण में प्रगति को देखते हुए शीघ्र ही अणु-बम बनाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार परमाणु अप्रसार संधि पर हस्ताक्षर करने के अमरीकी दबाव में न आते हुए अणु-बम बनाने की स्पष्ट घोषणा करेगी?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर॰एल॰ भाटिया): (क) से (ग) सरकार की निरन्तर यह स्थिति रही है कि भारत का नाभिकीय कार्यक्रम पूर्णतः शांतिपूर्ण प्रयोजनों के लिए है। तथापि भारत की सुरक्षा स्थिति की निरन्तर समीक्षा की जाती है तथा सभी सार्वभौमिक और क्षेत्रीय घटनाओं को विशेषकर हमारे पड़ौसी देशों की घटनाओं को ध्यान में रखा जाता है। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए उत्पन्न किसी भी खतरे का सामना करने के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करने के प्रति सरकार पूरी तरह से वचनबद्ध है। इस सन्दर्भ में सरकार ने हमेशा और स्पष्ट शब्दों में यह कहा है कि वह उसके वर्तमान स्वरूप में अप्रसार संधि पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं करेगी क्योंकि यह भेदभावपूर्ण है और यह नाभिकीय हथियार वाले तथा गैर-नाभिकीय वाले देशों के बीच एक स्थायी विभाजन करना चाहती है।

Non-Diplomatic Relations with Foreign Countries

2863. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any country with whom India has no diplomatic relations;

(b) if so, what are the names of such countries; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Fiji.

(c) *Macedonia:* We have still to recognise Macedonia because there is a controversy over its name, which is yet to be resolved. Establishment of diplomatic relations will follow once we recognise Macedonia.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina remains confused; however, we have recognised them and intend to establish diplomatic relations in due course.

Fiji: The illegal interim Government established in Fiji through two military coups of May and September 1987, pursued policies of racial discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin, which we have consistently opposed in international forums. The Fiji Government on 23rd May, 1990, asked us to close our Mission in Suva, following which there have been no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

NAM's Stand on NPT

2864. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the recently concluded NAM Foreign Minister's Conference at Cairo bears eloquent testimony to its continuing importance in the changed world situation; and

(b) if so, whether India is expected to have a leading role in NAM especially against the threat of sanction by the developed countries on NPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has been consistently playing an active role on all issues of concern to the NAM, including disarmament.

Closing down of Mission in Aden

2865. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have closed down its mission in Aden without even appointing an Honorary Consul; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent to the unification of North & South Yemen Sanaa became the capital and the Mission in Aden was closed. Appointment of an Honorary Consul, which is not related to the closure of a Mission, has not taken place.

Delay in issuing Passport by Ahmedabad Passport Office

2866. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the normal time taken by the Regional Passport office, Ahmedabad to issue a passport to an applicant;

(b) whether one of the general reasons given by the regional passport office for the delay in issuing a passport is said to be the delay in receipt of police report;

(c) whether any cases of loss of police reports after their receipt in the said office have also come to notice;

(d) whether there have been any complaints about issuance of passports where expiry dates marked on the passport happened to be earlier than the issuing dates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what procedure is adopted for setting right such passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) RPO Ahmedabad issues passports on first come first served basis. Presently it issues passports within 75-80 days of receipt of applications. No cases of loss of police report have come to notice; however, sometimes there are delays because of misplacement, wrong file numbers and postal delays. Regarding issue of passport where expiry date marked on the passport was earlier than the date of issue, one case has come to the notice of the RPO which was later on rectified.

Russia's Stand on Kashmir Issue

2867. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item cap-